

From: Vafiadis, Dorothea [Dorothea.Vafiadis@cnpp.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, November 06, 2007 2:49 PM
To: Darton, Terry
Cc: sruland@idfa.org
Subject: Mirant Plant in Alexandria

Dear Terry,

I am submitting comments as requested by the public notice released on October 19, 2007, that addresses the state operating permit for the Mirant Potomac River Generating Station in Alexandria, Virginia. As a resident and home owner in Old Town Alexandria for more than 10 years, I am very concerned about the quality of air in the neighborhood where I live and also in the city where I work. I urge you to make the operating permit as strict as possible and take appropriate steps to ensure that the plant complies with the permit. I urge you to eliminate soot and smog caused by the Mirant Plant and reduce pollution that is entering the Old Town community.

As a mother of two children under the age of 5 years old I am extremely concerned about the quality of the air that they breathe. My children run and play a mere 4-5 blocks from the plant and children are especially vulnerable to the particulates coming from the smokestacks because their lungs are still developing. I know the air is heavy with tiny particles coming from the plant because I have seen the build-up accumulate on the exterior of my home. In fact, when the plant was shut down for a brief period of time there was a noticeable difference in the appearance of my home's white-washed front porch. When the plant was allowed to re-open, the dirt and darkness reappeared. Of course, these particles not only accumulate on buildings, they enter the circulatory system, accumulate in the body and cause major damage. Again, I urge you to reduce the harm and help prevent health risks by imposing the strictest measures possible.

Studies have shown that the pollution that comes from such a plant as Mirant also harms the environment, contributes to acidification of lakes and streams and creates the haze that can be seen surrounding our national parks and scenic vistas. The location of the plant, which is located one block from the GW Parkway, enhances the problem by combining a major source of tailpipe pollution with smoke, soot and smog. This increases the level of pollution pouring into Alexandria, VA, and the surrounding community, putting the citizens at an even greater risk for compromised respiratory health.

Please protect and enhance the public health and the environment by developing a strict permit and reducing the emissions of the Mirant Plant, a major source of air pollution in our community today.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely,

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